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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the Declaration of the European Council on non-proliferation, issued on 29 June 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 59, 61 and 62 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jan de MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Declaration on non-proliferation and arms exports, made by the European Council on 29 June 1991

The European Council is deeply concerned at the danger arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world. The recent Gulf War showed the absolute necessity of further enhancing the effectiveness of regimes of non-proliferation.

The Community and its member States support a strengthening of the regime of nuclear non-proliferation and call for all States to become parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. They look to an agreement in the near future on a convention on chemical weapons and to the strengthening of the Convention on Biological and Bacteriological Weapons.

The European Council is also alarmed by the stockpiling of conventional weapons in certain regions of the world. To prevent situations of instability recurring in entire regions as a result of such over-armament, the European Council believes that far-reaching international action is needed immediately to promote restraint and transparency in the transfers of conventional weapons and of technologies for military use, in particular towards areas of tension.

The European Council notes with satisfaction that work in progress in the organs of European political cooperation has already, by comparing national policies on arms exports, identified a number of common criteria on which these policies are based, such as:

- Respect for the international commitments of the member States of the Community, in particular the sanctions decreed by the Security Council of the United Nations and those decreed by the Community, agreements on non-proliferation and other subjects, as well as other international obligations;

- Respect of human rights in the country of final destination;

- The internal situation in the country of final destination, as a function of the existence of tensions or internal armed conflicts;

- Preservation of regional peace, security and stability;

- National security of the member States and of territories whose external relations are the responsibility of a member State, as well as that of friendly and allied countries;

- Behaviour of the buyer country with regard to the international community, as regards in particular its attitude to terrorism, the nature of its alliances, and respect for international law;

- The existence of a risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions.

In the perspective of political union, the European Council hopes that on the basis of criteria of this nature a common approach will be made possible leading to a harmonization of national policies.

The Community and its member States attach particular importance in the framework of their internal consultations and within the competent international forums to transparency in conventional arms transfers. They will attach priority to the establishment of a United Nations register on conventional arms transfers and will table a draft resolution in this sense at the next United Nations General Assembly.

The European Council calls on all States to support this initiative and others which aim to prevent the uncontrolled spread of weapons and military technologies.